

Nogai language

Nogai (/noʊˈɡaɪ/; also **Nogay** or **Nogai Tatar**) is a Turkic language spoken in Southwestern European Russia and in Turkey. Three distinct dialects are recognized:

- **Karanogay** or **Qara-Nogai** (literally "Black Nogai"; "Northern Nogai"), spoken in Dagestan,
- **Central Nogai** or **Nogai Proper**, in Stavropol, and
- **Aqnogai** (White or Western Nogai), by the Kuban River, its tributaries in Karachay–Cherkessia and in the Mineralnye Vody District. Qara-Nogai and Nogai Proper are very close linguistically, whereas Aqnogai is more different. However, all three are mutually intelligible.

Karagash, Yurt and Utar are three more languoids sometimes classified as Nogai dialects but the Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences recognizes them as separate languages.^[3]

Nogai is generally classified into the Kipchak–Nogai branch of Kipchak Turkic. The latter also includes Crimean Tatar, Kazakh in Kazakhstan, Kirgiz in Kyrgyzstan and Karakalpak in Uzbekistan.

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History

The Nogai, descended from the peoples of the Golden Horde, take their name and that of their language from the grandson of Genghis Khan, Nogai Khan, who ruled the nomadic people west of the Danube toward the end of the 13th century. They then settled along the Black Sea coast of present-day Ukraine.

Nogai	
Ногай тили (Noğay tili)	
Native to	Russia
Region	Caucasus
Ethnicity	Nogais
<div>Native speakers</div>	87,000 (2010 census) ^[1]
<div>Language family</div>	<div>Turkic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common Turkic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kipchak<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kipchak–Nogai<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nogai</div>
<div>Writing system</div>	Cyrillic
Official status	
<div>Official language in</div>	<div> <div> Russia</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dagestan Karachay-Cherkessia </div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-2	nog (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/lang_codes_name.php?code_ID=329)
ISO 639-3	nog
Glottolog	noga1249 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/noga1249) ^[2]

Originally, the Nogai alphabet was based on the Arabic script. In 1928, a Latin alphabet was introduced. It was devised by the Nogai academic Abdulkhamid Dzhanibekov (Djanibek), following principles adopted for all Turkic languages.

In 1938, a transition to the Cyrillic alphabet began. The orthography based on the Latin alphabet was alleged to be an impediment to learning Russian.

The expulsion of the Nogai from Ukraine in the nineteenth century separated Nogai speakers into several geographically isolated groups. Some went to Turkey and Romania, while others stayed within the Russian Empire, settling in northern Dagestan and neighbouring areas of Chechnya and Stavropol Kray.

The Nogai language has disappeared very rapidly in Turkey. Today it is mostly spoken by the older generation, however there are still younger speakers, as there are some villages in Turkey where it is a common mode of communication. In the Soviet Union the language of instruction in schools was Russian, and the number of speakers declined there also. Recent estimates place the total number of Nogai speakers at about 80,000.

In 1973, two small Nogai-language newspapers were being published, one in Karachay–Cherkessia and another in the Dagestan Autonomous SSR (*Ленин йолы*), but most speakers never heard of these publications, and the papers did not reach Nogai villages.

Nogai is now part of the school curriculum from the 1st to the 10th year in the Nogai District of Dagestan. It is also taught at the Karachayevo-Cherkess Pedagogical School and the national branch of the Pedagogical Institute.

Phonology

Vowels

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close</u>	i, y	ʊ, u
<u>Mid</u>	e	o
<u>Open</u>	æ, œ	a

Consonants

	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Uvular</u>
<u>Plosive</u>	p, b	t, d		k, g	q
<u>Fricative</u>	(f, v)	s, z	ʃ, ʒ		[χ], [ʁ]
<u>Affricate</u>		(ts)	(tʃ), dʒ		
<u>Nasal</u>	m	n		ŋ	
<u>Liquid</u>		l, r			
<u>Approximant</u>	w		j		

Phonemes in brackets indicate allophones, and parentheses indicate copied lexical sounds.^[4]

Alphabet

Arabic alphabet

Before 1928 the alphabet used for the Nogai language was based on the Arabic script. It included all the letters of the Arabic plus additional symbols for the specific sounds of the Nogai. This alphabet was not widely used.

ل ۋ ۋ ۋ پ ۋ چ ژ گ

Latin alphabet

In 1928 the Nogai alphabet based on Latin as part of the Soviet-wide Latinisation campaign. A. Sh. Dzhaniybekov, a high school teacher was the author of this alphabet.

A a	B б	Ç ç	D d	E e	Ə ə	G g	Ŋ ŋ
I i	K k	L l	M m	N n	Ŋ, ŋ	O o	θ θ
P p	Q q	R r	S s	Ş ş	T t	U u	Y y
J j	Ь ь	Z z	V v				

The letters **C c, I, ı, F f, H h, X x, Z z** were added in 1931, and the letter **Ş ş** in 1933. In 1936 the letters **Ç ç, Ə ə, H h, I, ı** were excluded from the alphabet.

Cyrillic alphabet

The Nogai alphabet based on Cyrillic was created in 1938. It included all of the Russian alphabet letters except Ё ё, and also the digraphs **Гъ гъ, Къ къ, Нъ нъ**. The digraphs **Оъ оъ, Уъ уъ** were added in the same year. In 1944 the digraphs **Гъ гъ, Къ къ** were excluded from the alphabet. The last reform of the Nogai alphabet took place in 1950, when it attained the current form.

<u>Cyrillic</u>	<u>Transliteration</u>	<u>Cyrillic</u>	<u>Transliteration</u>
А а	A a	П п	P p
Аь аь	Ä ä	Р р	R r
Б б	B b	С с	S s
В в	W w	Т т	T t
Г г	G g, Ğ ğ	У у	U u
Д д	D d	Уь уь	Ü ü
Е е	E e	Ф ф	F f
Ж ж, Дж дж	J j, C c	Х х	H h
З з	Z z	Ц ц	Ț ț
И и	İ i	Ч ч	Ç ç
Й й	Y y	Ш ш	Ş ş
К к	K k, Q q	Ъ ъ	-
Л л	L l	Ы ы	I i
М м	M m	Ь ь	-
Н н	N n	Э э	E e
Нь нь	Ñ ñ	Ю ю	Yu yu
О о	O o	Я я	Ya ya
Оь оь	Ö ö		

References

1. Nogai (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/nog/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Nogai" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/noga1249>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Koryakov, Yuri. "Languages of Russia" (<https://iling-ran.ru/web/ru/jazykirf>). *Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences*. Retrieved 2020-07-26.
4. Lars Johanson, Éva Ágnes Csató (1998). *The Turkic Languages*.

External links

- [The Red Book of the Peoples of the Russian Empire \(http://www.eki.ee/books/redbook/nogays.shtml\)](http://www.eki.ee/books/redbook/nogays.shtml)
- [Noghai dictionary and grammar \(http://noghai.livejournal.com/\)](http://noghai.livejournal.com/)

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